IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

.cants : Walter Baltensperger Confirmation No.: 2666

Serial No. : 09/899,681 Filed : July 5, 2001

TC/A.U. : 1734

Examiner : B. A. Lamb

Docket No. : 01-384 Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111(C)

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated November 13, 2003 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 13, 2004, having been extended for two months so as to expire on April 14, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 8 of this paper.